

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 176695 TOSEC 080059
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:BH
APPROVED BY NEA:HHSAUDERS
S/S:FWISNER
EUR/WE:MR.BROD
NSC:GSICK
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER
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O 131650Z JUL 78 ZFF5
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INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176695 TOSEC 080059

EXDIS - FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, LE, SY, US, VT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO THE POPE'S MESSAGE OF
JULY 6

1. PLEASE DELIVER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE VATICAN
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER:

BEGIN TEXT: YOUR HOLINESS:

I SHARE THE CONCERN OF YOUR HOLINESS OVER THE RECENT TRAGIC
EVENTS IN LEBANON, AND IN PARTICULAR OVER THE HEAVY
CASUALTIES AMONG THE INNOCENT CIVILIAN POPULATION.

WE WERE EXCEEDINGLY GRATEFUL FOR THE APPEAL ISSUED BY
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YOUR HOLINESS ON JULY 5, WHICH I BELIEVE HAD A USEFUL
EFFECT. I SUPPORTED THIS APPEAL IN MY OWN STATEMENT OF
JULY 6.

YOU CAN BE ASSURED, YOUR HOLINESS, THAT THE UNITED STATES
IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE CEASE-FIRE IS
MAINTAINED WHILE A RESOLUTION TO THE LATEST OUTBREAK OF

FIGHTING IS NEGOTIATED PEACEABLY. THE LONG-RANGE ANSWER
TO LEBANON'S MANY PROBLEMS LIES IN THE STRENGTHENING OF

THE LEGITIMATE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT CAN WIN
THE CONFIDENCE OF ALL LEBANESE CITIZENS, GAIN CONTROL
OVER ALL THE ARMED GROUPS IN LEBANON, AND EXTEND AUTHORITY
AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS HAS BEEN AND
WILL REMAIN THE FOCUS OF THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE POPE'S APPEAL DATED JUNE 6:

BEGIN TEXT: TO HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. JIMMY CARTER,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WE ARE PROFOUNDLY PREOCCUPIED BY THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, WHERE SYRIAN MILITARY ACTION
AND CONSEQUENT BOMBINGS CARRIED OUT FOR FIVE DAYS ON THE
CHRISTIAN QUARTERS OF BEIRUT, NOT ONLY HAVE PRODUCED
NUMEROUS VICTIMS AMONG THE POPULATION BUT PLACE IN
SERIOUS JEOPARDY THE ALREADY WEAK INSTITUTIONS OF THE
LEBANESE STATE WITH UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE
SURVIVAL OF LEBANON ITSELF AND FOR PEACE IN THE REGION.

URGENTLY, I ASK YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PLEASE MAKE USE OF
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YOUR STRONGEST PERSONAL INFLUENCE WITH THE AUTHORITIES
OF SYRIA IN ORDER THAT A CESSATION OF THE BOMBARDMENTS OF
BEIRUT BE ARRANGED IMMEDIATELY IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO
ESTABLISH A TRUCE WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE PARTIES TO
SEARCH FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POPE

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 13 jul 1978

Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978STATE176695

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: MDRAPER:BH

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780287-0598

Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780763/aaaacbdq.tel

Line Count: 101

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 2f45da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ORIGIN SS

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Reference: n/a

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 17 may 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2018289

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO THE POPE'S MESSAGE OF JULY 6

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, LE, SY, US, VT

To: ROME

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f45da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014